

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, in view of the present amendment and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 3-13, 15-18, 20, and 21 are pending. In the present amendment, Claims 1, 11, 15, and 16 are amended; Claim 14 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer; and new Claim 21 is added. Support for the present amendment can be found in the present specification, for example, in Claims 11 and 14. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 11 was objected to; Claims 1, 3, 6-8, 12, 13, 18, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Skulley (U.S. Patent No. 6,856,690); and Claims 4, 5, 9, and 14-17 were objected to, but indicated as including allowable subject matter. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter.

This amendment is submitted in accordance with 37 C.F.R. § 1.116 which, after final rejection, permits entering of amendments canceling claims, complying with any requirement of form expressly set forth in a previous Office Action, or presenting rejected claims in better form for consideration on appeal. The present amendment amends Claim 1 to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 14, amends Claim 15 to include the subject matter of base Claim 1, and adds new Claim 21 which depends on Claim 15 and includes the subject matter of Claim 11. Therefore, this amendment only includes subject matter which was earlier presented. Thus, no new matter has been added, and this amendment does not raise new issues requiring further consideration and/or search. It is therefore respectfully requested that the present amendment be entered under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116.

With respect to the objection to Claim 11, Claim 11 is amended to correct the informality noted in the Office Action. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn.

With respect to the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), independent Claim 1 is hereby amended to include the subject matter of allowable Claim 14. Further, allowable Claim 15 is amended into independent form by including the subject matter of base Claim 1. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Claims 1 and 15, and all claims dependent thereon, patentably define over the cited reference. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the objection to Claims 4, 5, 9, and 14-17 and the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) are moot and it is respectfully requested that the objection and rejection be withdrawn.

New Claim 21 is added by the present amendment. New Claim 21 recites the subject matter of Claim 11 and depends from Claim 15. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that no new matter is added. As Claim 14 is hereby canceled, the addition of new Claim 21 does not increase the total number of pending claims. Thus, it is respectfully requested that Claim 21 be entered and allowed.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact Applicant's undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

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